[19th March 1954

Enhancement in the seigniorage value of unreserved trees.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have enhanced the seigniorage value of unreserved trees in the State;

(*b*) if so, by how many times; and

(*c*) whether the enhanced rate is being given effect to for offences committed before the date of this order?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The Government enhanced the seigniorage value of unreserved trees in the State in 1951.

" (*b*) The increase was 200 per cent over the rates then existing.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, I know that there are thousands of cases where the enhanced rate of seigniorage value has been collected for offences committed before the enhancement order was issued. Is it not a fact, Sir, that for offences committed before the issue of this order, enhanced seigniorage value has been collected? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think that retrospective effect was given to this order and there are no cases where enhanced seigniorage value has been collected with retrospective effect. Perhaps the cases which are mentioned by the hon. Member refer to those offences which occurred after the issue of the order and before the date of the notification."

* 272 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, this question may be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes. It will be taken up to-morrow."

" Harijan Day " celebrations through A.I.R.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any of the Government authorities connected with the Harijan Welfare Department are broadcasting in the All-India Radio on the 30th of each month celebrating the Harijan Day; and

(*b*) how many times in 1953 the Minister for Animal Husbandry and the Director of Harijan Welfare broadcast in the All-India Radio regarding the Harijan Uplift and the activities of the State Government towards Harijan Welfare?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No. All-India Radio have, however, been requested by the Government of Madras to include in the programmes on the 30th of each month broadcasts about Harijan Welfare Work and efforts of the Madras Government in this direction.